St. Jude Thaddeus

Helper in Desperate Cases

Benedictine Convent
of
Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri

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Clyde, Missouri

St. Jude Thaddeus
Helper in Desperate Cases

Saint Rita
Advocate of the Impossible

Nihil Obstat **PHILIPPUS**
Abbas Neo-Angelo Montanus

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Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri

St. Jude Thaddeus

Tradition says he carried an image of our Savior to the afflicted King of Edessa and healed him. The club indicates an instrument of his martyrdom.

St. Jude Thaddeus
An Efficacious Helper in Grave Necessities

History According to Tradition

GREAT and ardent should be our devotion to the holy apostles, because they were the first teachers of our Faith. During the glorious Middle Ages the apostles were held in high veneration, but, sad to say, in our materialistic age this devotion has become tepid, especially with regard to the holy apostle St. Jude Thaddeus, whose feast we celebrate on October 28th. By reason of the shameful treason of Judas Iscariot against our Savior, the name of Judas fell into such disrepute, that even the apostle Jude Thaddeus suffered thereby. Within the last few decades, veneration to this glorious apostle has been revived. It seems that our Divine Redeemer wishes to repair the honor of

St. Jude by granting favors, and frequently giving aid to those in extreme distress, on condition that they invoke this saint. Our Lord Himself, in a vision, directed St. Bridget of Sweden to turn with great confidence to St. Jude. "In accordance with his surname 'Thaddeus' — the amiable, loving," — said Jesus, "he will show himself **most willing to give help.**" St. Jude is called the **patron of hopeless and desperate cases,** owing to the singular help he has obtained for his clients in grave necessities. To strengthen our confidence in this blessed apostle, let us hear something of his life from revelation and tradition.

The holy apostle Jude bears the surname "Thaddeus" to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot, the traitor. Besides the apostle James the Less, Jude had two more brothers who together with himself are called the "brethren of Jesus" in the Holy Gospel (Matt. xiii. 55). In Hebrew this expression signi-

fies a near relationship. His father was Cleophas. On account of his bold and fearless confession of the resurrection of Christ, Cleophas was murdered by the Jews and thus won the crown of martyrdom. The mother's name was Mary. She was a near relative of the Blessed Virgin. After her death, the holy remains of Mary Cleophas were glorified by great miracles.

St. Jude was brought up by his parents as a pious and innocent youth. In his boyhood he must have **frequently associated with Jesus.** No mention is made of Jude's occupation before his call to the apostolate, but we may well surmise that when our Savior began His public life, Jude Thaddeus abandoned everything to accompany Him. How great must have been the surprise and joy of our holy apostle when he witnessed the first miracle of his Lord and Master at the marriage feast of Cana! From the time when Jude was chosen an apostle, he labored with indefati-

gable zeal, particularly for the conversion of the Gentiles.

Cure of the King of Edessa

In most countries of Europe, St. Jude is represented as wearing a miniature of our Lord on his breast (see frontispiece). The following is the tradition attached thereto: —

The fame of our Lord's miracles having reached Abagaro, King of Edessa, the monarch, who was afflicted with leprosy, sent a messenger begging Jesus to come and cure him. Receiving an answer that our Lord could not gratify him then, the king sent an artist to Jerusalem for the purpose of at least obtaining **our Lord's portrait.** But the poor artist, blinded by the splendor and brightness emanating from our Savior's Face, was unable to draw a single line. Jesus, moved by compassion, and wishing to console Abagaro, held a cloth to His Face, and **impressed the image of His sacred Countenance**

St. Jude Thaddeus healing the afflicted King of Edessa.

thereon. Then He handed it to the painter to carry back to his sovereign, with the promise to send someone to cure him. It is related that this mission was confided to St. Jude Thaddeus, who after our Lord's ascension proceeded to Edessa.

A supernatural splendor shone about St. Jude when he was presented to King Abagaro. Perceiving this, the sovereign knelt, saying: —

"Art thou the disciple of whom Jesus spoke: 'I will send you one of My disciples who will cure your malady, and give life to you and your subjects'?"

Thaddeus replied: "Thou hadst faith in the Lord Jesus; therefore He sent me."

"I believe in Him," continued Abágaro, "and my faith is such that I would have sent my army to destroy the Jews who put Him to death had not the Roman army been an obstacle."

"He fulfilled the will of His Fa-

ther," responded Thaddeus, "and after death rose glorious and triumphant, and returned to His Father." St. Jude then placed his hands on **Abagaro, who was instantly cured of his infirmity.** Many citizens were also healed, and on being instructed, the king, his court and almost the entire kingdom were converted to Jesus Christ.

Conversion of Barbarians

After firmly establishing the Church in Edessa, the Apostle St. Jude visited the whole of Mesopotamia, preaching the Gospel, and everywhere increasing the number of the faithful. This occupied about ten years. Having returned to Jerusalem for the Council of the Apostles, St. Jude afterwards joined St. Simon in Libya, where the two apostles diffused the light of the Gospel among the barbarian inhabitants. They then set out for Persia where God had reserved for them **an abundant harvest.** It is impossible to

compute the number of the converted or to describe the change in the manners and customs of that savage people.

Before the arrival of the two apostles the laws and habits of the Persians were iniquitous. The marriage tie was totally disregarded — the dead were thrown into the fields to become the food of wild beasts, and other barbarities prevailed. Taught by the apostles the noble and generous sentiments of the true religion, these people soon **became the admiration of other Christians.** Barbarity was replaced by gentleness, cruelty by Christian charity, impiety by evangelical perfection.

Apostolic Labors in Persia

In Persia the two apostles were continually thwarted in their teaching by two magicians named Zaroes and Arfaxat, who endeavored by their art and incantations to uphold the worship of the idols. At every step they confronted our apostles and denounced them as

impostors, but were always defeated by the two saints, who invariably exposed their tricks and impostures. In the presence of St. Jude and St. Simon, the idols refused to answer their false priests, but when the apostles, in the name of God, commanded them to speak, they were forced to acknowledge the saints as the disciples of the true God. The saints then ordered the demons inhabiting the idols to quit them, in doing which, they howled with rage and shattered the images.

On entering the camp of Verardach, commander-in-chief of the Persian army, the two apostles met the same magicians, Zaroes and Arfaxat. The Persians were preparing to march against an army from India, and Verardach was anxious as to the outcome of the war. "We know you are more powerful than our gods," the commander said to the apostles, "for at your approach the idols fell to the ground. After the war is over we will

gladly listen to your teaching. Tell us what the result of this war will be."

The apostles commanded the demons to answer. Questioned by their priests, the idols replied that the war would be long and many would perish on both sides. Verardach was troubled. "Fear not, O Prince, **your gods lie!**" joyfully exclaimed the two apostles. "Tomorrow at this same hour, ambassadors will arrive from your enemy to conclude negotiations of peace."

On the following day the ambassadors from India arrived at the hour designated by the two saints and **terms of peace were agreed upon.** The prince, indignant at the false prophecies of the wicked magicians, ordered them to be burned alive, and likewise all who maligned the holy apostles. But SS. Simon and Jude interceded with the commander and the punishment was averted.

Filled with admiration for the two holy apostles, Prince Verardach con-

ducted them to the King of Persia. Here also they performed miracles in order to frustrate the wicked designs of the magicians who had preceded them. Everywhere **great numbers were converted to the Faith.** In all the towns and villages traversed by SS. Simon and Jude, they found that the magicians had gone before to prejudice and incite the people against them, but at the approach of the apostles the impostors invariably fled.

Once a number of idolatrous priests had assembled before their king and brought the two apostles for condemnation. The priests held charmed serpents in their hands and set them loose upon the apostles. The snakes, however, turning upon the idolatrous priests, encircled and bit them until the apostles commanded the reptiles to cease. Some serpents were laid on the ground and the apostles were commanded to take them up. They did so, and held them to their breast beneath their mantle

The holy apostles held the snakes to their breast beneath their mantle without being bitten.

without being bitten. The priests were then told to take up the snakes: when they took hold of them, the reptiles bit their hands and curled around them, causing the priests to scream fearfully. At sight of this wonder, many people became Christians, also the king.

St. Jude's Epistle

Our holy apostle seems to have been among the last of the twelve to die for his Savior, as he implies by the seventeenth verse of his epistle: "My dearly beloved, be mindful of the words which have been spoken before by the apostles." The words of his epistle are in keeping with the amiable disposition which tradition ascribes to him. "My beloved," he writes, "building yourselves upon your most holy Faith praying in the Holy Ghost; keep yourselves in the love of God, **waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto life everlasting"** (i. 20-21).

Though the epistle of St. Jude is

one of the shortest in the New Testament, it is remarkable for the strength and grandeur of its language. It applies clearly to the eventful times in which we now live. The profound humility of St. Jude shines forth in a singular manner in his epistle. Far from calling himself a relative of Jesus, though he was such, St. Jude terms himself a servant of Jesus Christ. He was **filled with a holy zeal** for the doctrine of Christ and the salvation of souls.

St. Jude preached amid untold sufferings and persecution in Judea, Samaria and Idumea, but especially in Mesopotamia where the people were sunk in the dregs of immorality. This gentle apostle, however, knew how to impress upon them the beauty of Christian purity. Doubtless it is in reward of his zealous labors to teach this virtue to the pagans, that God now glorifies St. Jude by giving him special power to aid those **tortured by the spirit of impurity.**

Martyrdom

The numberless souls brought to accept the true religion by St. Jude, aroused the hatred of unbelievers and secured for our holy apostle the coveted crown of martyrdom. Authorities differ as to the manner of his death. Tradition states that he was beaten with clubs and his head cleft with a broadax.

His body was brought to Rome, and is now honored in St. Peter's basilica. Pope Paul III, in a brief dated Sept. 22, 1548, granted a plenary indulgence to all who visit his tomb on his feast, which is celebrated Oct. 28th. This shows us that even in the Middle Ages, devotion to St. Jude flourished, for the grant of a plenary indulgence was then very rare. Though the body of the holy apostle rests at St. Peter's in Rome, his helpful, living charity is diffused throughout the world and in every country his clients experience wonderful help in difficulties and trials of the most hopeless nature.

Glorious martyrdom of SS. Simon and Jude

Powerful Helper in Extreme Need

St. Jude Thaddeus shows his particular assistance and protection in circumstances deemed **most difficult and desperate.** His aid has been widely experienced, for he is universally known as the "Patron of hopeless and desperate cases." From earliest times he has been considered a helper in urgent need. Thousands who have implored his aid, have received extraordinary and miraculous help in cases which, according to all human calculations, seemed hopeless.

Ven. Columba of the Order of St. Dominic realized how pleasing it is to God if we zealously venerate the holy apostle Thaddeus and promote his honor, because he is so little known and loved. She understood that by venerating this saint, one can obtain assistance in difficulties where help is despaired of, in trials and afflictions of a grave and serious nature.

St. Jude has obtained recovery for those stricken with maladies which defy all human skill and remedies; he has obtained grace for persons to overcome deeply rooted evil habits — those afflictions of the soul which are far more difficult to cure than any bodily ailment. St. Jude comes quickly and speedily to the aid of those tormented by impure thoughts and enslaved by impure habits. Our holy apostle **obtains help in anguish, distress, calumny, poverty, misery, yea, even in despair** and in circumstances where aid seems utterly impossible. In return, he demands our confidence, love and gratitude; if our requests are not immediately granted precisely according to our own ideas and wishes, they surely will be sooner or later according to the designs of God.

A shining example of veneration of this holy apostle is given us by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, who during his whole life highly honored a relic of St.

Jude, and asked that in death the relic be placed upon his breast and buried with him, that, as he said, he would not be entirely without him whom in life he had found to be a **powerful protector of his purity,** and a potent helper in every circumstance.

Let all who are in tribulation be animated with confidence in the intercession of St. Jude, for the miraculous virtue of our prayers proceeds from confidence, says the servant of God, Ven. Anna Catherine Emmerich. Let not this holy apostle be justified in complaining that we do not avail ourselves of his merits and powerful protection. He is the helper, the consoler of all oppressed with heavy trials. Let us say with confidence:

St Jude, pray for us.
And for all who invoke thy aid.

From a Client of St. Jude: —

"Send me booklets. . . St. Jude has been wonderfully good to me; received two great favors."

How to Obtain the Aid of St. Jude

Holy Mass

One of the most powerful means to obtain the aid of St. Jude in special needs and distress, is to have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered in his honor. Nothing gives greater pleasure to the saints than if we offer a Holy Mass in their honor. In great affliction, or to obtain a special favor, one may have a triduum of 3 Masses or a novena of 9 Masses offered in honor of this holy apostle, or assist at Holy Mass for such a number of days, imploring his aid. On page 28 you will find an "Offering" which may be recited after the Consecration at every Holy Mass offered in honor of St. Jude.

Holy Communion, Novenas, Prayers

Make novenas in honor of St. Jude. Approach Holy Communion in his honor when you ask your favor, and again in gratitude when St. Jude obtains it for you. Also say the "Our Father," "Hail Mary" and "Glory be to the Father," each three times.

Use any of the prayers in this booklet for a novena to St. Jude.

Choose nine Sundays to practice special devotion to St. Jude. Certainly firm confidence in this saint will be bountifully rewarded. God has ordained that He will grant the assistance of His grace to those who in desperate need and abandonment take refuge to St. Jude Thaddeus.

Advice in Grave Difficulties

To those who take refuge to St. Jude, it will be of untold benefit, if they give ample alms or perform some other work of mercy in his honor. Nothing gives us a surer pledge of the help of God and the intercession of the saints than works of mercy. St. Leo says, "Prayer has the greatest efficacy to obtain favors from God when it is supported by works of mercy." And St. Gregory of Nazianzen writes, "The merciful have the key to the treasures of God."

Lefer, a pious priest, asserts, "Persons of all classes in the most desperate situations came to me. Frequently all means failed to obtain the longed-for grace until I said to them: 'Practice charity.' If they followed this advice, they invariably received help." "Give to the poor and receive the kingdom of heaven," says St. Methodius. Alms have the power of can-

celing our debt of sin. A mystic teacher writes: "If there were no poor, there would not be so many mortal sins remitted. The poor are the physicians of our wounds. We can never give the poor as much as we receive from them, because for the piece of bread we give them they issue a ticket to heaven for us."

That is why so many charitable men die a good death, even though they have been great sinners. It is the pronounced experience of many saints and learned men and confessors, that sinners who willingly give alms will not die impenitent. One saint says, "Never have I seen a charitable person end with a bad death."

In most beautiful and reassuring words, Holy Scripture recommends and declares the reward of almsgiving, "Blessed is he that understandeth concerning the needy and the poor: the Lord will deliver him in the evil day" (Ps. xl. 1). Yes, surely the one who is compassionate toward the poor will receive mercy at the hour of death.

Be assured then, devout reader, that alms-giving in honor of St. Jude will incline this amiable apostle to succor you in your most hopeless and desperate necessities, as many of his clients have already experienced.

Devotions in Honor of St. Jude Thaddeus

Mass in Honor of St. Jude

Proper of the Mass. This may easily be used with your Missal or prayer-book containing the Ordinary of the Mass.

Introit. Ps. 138. To me Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable: their principality is exceedingly strengthened. **Ps.** Lord, Thou hast proved me, and known me: Thou hast known my sitting down and my rising up. V. Glory be to the Father. . .

Collect. O God who through Thy blessed Apostle Jude, hast brought us unto the knowledge of Thy Name; grant that by advancing in virtue we may set forth his everlasting glory, and by setting forth his glory we may advance in virtue. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, etc.

Epistle. Eph. iv. Brethren: To every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the giving of Christ. Wherefore He saith: Ascending on high, He led captivity captive; He gave gifts to men. Now, that He ascended, what is it, but be-

cause He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and other some evangelists, and other some pastors and doctors, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; until we all meet into the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the age of the fullness of Christ.

Gradual. Ps. 44. Thou shalt make them princes over all the earth: they shall remember Thy Name, O Lord. V. Instead of thy fathers, sons are born to Thee: therefore shall people praise Thee. Alleluia, alleluia. V. **Ps. 138.** Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable: their principality is exceedingly strengthened. Alleluia.

Gospel. John xv. At that time: Jesus said to His disciples: These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hate you, know ye that it hath hated Me before you. If you had been of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but

I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember My word that I said to you: The servant is not greater than his Master. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My Name's sake, because they know not Him that sent Me. If I had not come, and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. He that hateth Me, hateth My Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no other man hath done, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated both Me and My Father. But that the word may be fulfilled which is written in their law, they hated Me without cause.

Offertory. Ps. 18. Their sound went forth into all the earth; and their words to the end of the world.

Secret. We who honor the eternal glory of Thy holy Apostle Jude beseech Thee, O Lord, that being cleansed by these holy mysteries, we may become more worthy to do him homage. Through our Lord, etc.

Preface. It is truly meet and just, right and availing unto salvation, humbly to

pray Thee, O Lord, the eternal Shepherd, to abandon not Thy flock; but through Thy blessed Apostles to keep a continual watch over it; that it may be governed by those same rulers whom Thou didst set over it as shepherds and as Thy vicars. And therefore with the angels and archangels, the thrones and dominions, and the whole host of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, saying again and again: Holy, holy, holy. . .

Communion. Matth.19. You who have followed Me, shall sit on seats, judging the twelve tribes of Israel, saith the Lord.

Postcommunion. Having received Thy sacraments, O Lord, we humbly entreat of Thee that, through the intercession of Thy blessed Apostle Jude, what we do in honor of his martyrdom may avail us as a healing remedy. Through our Lord, etc.

Offering

O Eternal Father, I offer Thee this Holy Sacrifice to Thy highest praise, with that same intention and for the same aim and end as Thy beloved Son, the eternal Highpriest Jesus Christ, Himself offers it to Thee. I offer it especially for the greater glory and beatitude of St. Jude Thaddeus,

in thanksgiving for all the graces and bliss bestowed upon him, and for my spiritual and temporal needs, particularly for... Amen.

Novenas

Short Novena

O glorious apostle, St. Jude Thaddeus, true relative of Jesus and Mary, I salute thee through the most Sacred Heart of Jesus! Through this Heart I praise and thank God for all the graces He has bestowed upon thee. Humbly prostrate before thee, I implore thee through this Heart to look down upon me with compassion. Oh, despise not my poor prayer; let not my trust be confounded! To thee God has granted the privilege of aiding mankind in the most desperate cases. Oh, come to my aid, that I may praise the mercies of God! All my life I will be grateful to thee and will be thy faithful client until I can thank thee in heaven. Amen.

Second Novena

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all dangers, O ever glorious and Blessed Virgin.

St Jude, pray for us.

And for all who invoke thy aid.

Litany

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ hear us.
Christ graciously hear us.
God the Father of heaven,*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, one God,
St. Jude, relative of Jesus and Mary,†
St. Jude, while on earth deemed worthy to see Jesus and Mary, and to enjoy their company,
St. Jude, raised to the dignity of an apostle,
St. Jude, who hadst the honor of beholding thy Divine Master humble Himself to wash thy feet,
St. Jude, who at the Last Supper didst

*Have mercy on us.
†Pray for us.

receive the Holy Eucharist from the hands of Jesus,*

St. Jude, who after the profound grief which the death of thy beloved Master caused thee, hadst the consolation of beholding Him risen from the dead, and of assisting at His glorious Ascension,

St. Jude, who wast filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost,

St. Jude, who didst preach the Gospel in Persia,

St. Jude, who didst convert many people to the Faith,

St. Jude, who didst perform wonderful miracles in the power of the Holy Ghost,

St. Jude, who didst restore an idolatrous king to health of both soul and body,

St. Jude, who didst impose silence on demons, and confound their oracles,

St. Jude, who didst foretell to a weak prince an honorable peace with his powerful enemy,

St. Jude, who didst take from deadly serpents the power of injuring man,

St. Jude, who, disregarding the threats of the impious, didst courageously preach the doctrine of Christ,

*Pray for us.

St. Jude, who didst gloriously suffer martyrdom for the love of thy Divine Master,*

Blessed apostle, **with confidence we invoke thee!**
Blessed apostle, **with confidence we invoke thee!**
Blessed apostle, **with confidence we invoke thee!**

St. Jude, help of the hopeless, **aid me in my distress!**
St. Jude, help of the hopeless, **aid me in my distress!**
St. Jude, help of the hopeless, **aid me in my distress!**

That by thy intercession, both priests and people of the Church may obtain an ardent zeal for the Faith of Jesus Christ,†
That thou wouldst defend our Sovereign Pontiff and obtain peace and unity for the Holy Church,
That all heathens and unbelievers may be converted to the true Faith,
That faith, hope and charity may increase in our hearts,
That we may be delivered from all evil

*Pray for us.
†We beseech thee, hear us.

thoughts, and from all the snares of the devil,*

That thou wouldst vouchsafe to aid and protect all those who honor thee,

That thou wouldst preserve us from all sin and from all occasions of sin,

That thou wouldst defend us at the hour of death, against the fury of the devil and his evil spirits,

Pray for us, that before death we may expiate all our sins by sincere repentance and the worthy reception of the holy sacraments,

Pray for us, that we may appease the Divine Justice, and obtain a favorable judgment,

Pray for us, that we may be admitted into the company of the blessed, to rejoice in the presence of our God forever,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

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*We beseech thee, hear us.

St Jude, pray for us.
And for all who invoke thy aid.

Prayer

Glorious apostle, martyr and relative of Jesus, St. Jude Thaddeus, who didst spread the true Faith among the most barbarous and distant nations; who didst win to the obedience of Jesus Christ many tribes and peoples by the power of His holy Word, grant, I beseech thee, that from this day I may renounce every sinful habit, that I may be preserved from all evil thoughts, that I may always obtain thy assistance, particularly in every danger and difficulty, and that I may safely reach the heavenly country, with thee to adore the Most Holy Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer in Trials

To be said in great affliction, or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, and for cases despaired of.

Most holy apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered thy beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused thee to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes thee universal-

ly as the patron of hopeless cases — of things despaired of. Pray for me who am so miserable; make use, I implore thee, of that particular privilege accorded to thee, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolations and succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly. . . (here make your request) and that I may bless God with thee and all the elect throughout eternity.

I promise thee, O blessed Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor thee as my special and powerful patron and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to thee. Amen.

St Jude, pray for us.
And for all who invoke thy aid.

Prayer in Grievous Affliction

O St. Jude Thaddeus, thou relative of Jesus Christ, thou glorious apostle and martyr, renowned for thy virtues and miracles, faithful and prompt intercessor of all who honor thee and trust in thee! Thou art a powerful patron and helper in grievous afflictions. I come to thee and entreat

thee from the depths of my heart, come to my aid with thy powerful intercession, for thou hast received from God the privilege to assist with thy manifest help, those who almost despair of all hope. Look down upon me; my life is a life of crosses, my days are days of tribulation, and my heart is an ocean of bitterness. All my paths are strewn with thorns and scarcely one moment passes but is witness of my tears and sighs. And withal, my soul is enveloped in darkness; disquietude, discouragement, mistrust, yes, sometimes even a kind of despair preys upon my soul. Divine Providence seems lost to my sight, and faith seems to falter in my heart. Overwhelmed by these thoughts I see myself surrounded by a dark cloud. Thou canst not forsake me in this sad plight. I will not depart from thee until thou hast heard me. Oh! hasten to my aid. I will be grateful to thee all my life. I will honor thee as my special patron, I will thank God for the graces bestowed upon thee, and will propagate thy honor according to my power. Amen.

Blessed Apostle, with confidence we invoke thee!

Praise and Thanksgiving

It was revealed to St. Gertrude that it is a source of great joy to the saints when we praise and thank God for the graces and privileges He has bestowed upon them. Clients of St. Jude should recite the following act of thanksgiving frequently.

O most sweet Lord Jesus Christ, in union with the unutterable heavenly praise with which the Most Holy Trinity extols Itself and which thence flows upon Thy Sacred Humanity, upon Mary, upon all the angels and saints, I praise, glorify and bless Thee for all the graces and privileges Thou hast bestowed upon Thy chosen apostle and intimate friend, Jude Thaddeus. I pray Thee for the sake of his merits, grant me Thy grace, and through his intercession come to my aid in all my needs, but especially at the hour of my death deign to strengthen me against the rage of my enemies. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, etc., three times.

In great affliction one may promise the apostle, in case he will help, to distribute a certain number of these booklets in thanksgiving. This means of spreading devotion to him is an effective way of obtaining his help.

A Source of Consolation

HOW often, weighed down by trials and suffering, does one wonder to whom to turn for consolation! Many a person, in these hours of anxiety and misfortune have found great comfort in recommending themselves to the prayers of religious who pray day and night before the Most Blessed Sacrament, and who will gladly lay the petitions of their suffering fellow creatures before Christ's Eucharistic throne of grace.

Nowhere is our Savior so lavish of His graces as in the Holy Eucharist. Beneath the veils of the Eucharist beats His Divinely human Heart, full of tenderness and mercy, waiting to pour out the treasures of His bounty upon all. Without interruption, during the busy hours of the day, and the quiet hours of the night, the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, both at Clyde, Missouri and Mundelein, Illinois, kneel in adoration before the Sacrament of Love. How efficacious are their prayers before our Lord exposed perpetually in the monstrance! And what a consolation that

everyone may obtain for himself a share in the prayers of so many adorers! When grief and sorrow weigh upon the soul, what consolation there is in the thought: perpetual adorers are at this very moment pleading my cause before Jesus, the King of Love.

A gentleman writes: "It is with pleasure I write. My petitions and requests have been heard and granted. How wonderful! About three days after I mailed you the letter, they came gradually until all were fulfilled. How gratifying it was! I had tried novenas, but to no avail, until you, dear Benedictine Sisters took up my cause before our Lord's Eucharistic throne. You may publish this so that many who would give up in discouragement may be saved if they have faith in prayer."

Sometime ago, early in the year, I asked you to enroll my son-in-law and pray that he might return to the Church. He went to confession on Holy Thursday, and made his Easter duty, the first time for quite a while. I am deeply grateful!"

For particulars write: —

Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri

A thorn pierces St. Rita's forehead.

St. Rita
Advocate of the Impossible

Her Birth

ST. Rita of Cascia is universally called the "Saint of the Impossible," because her intercession has been found available with God in most desperate and hopeless cases. Rita was born in Rocca Porena, in the diocese of Spoleto, Italy, about the year 1381. She came to her parents, who were already advanced in age, as the answer to many years of prayer. The piety and charity of her father and mother were so well known that they were called the "peacemakers" of their little village.

On the day after Rita's baptism, as she lay in her cradle, a swarm of bees, all of purest white, lighted on her angelic face and went in and out of her slightly opened mouth, as if to take

from her lips the honey of paradise. Doubtless this was to **typify the sweetness of word and manner** which later was **to win for God so many souls,** and the comfort she was to diffuse throughout the world for centuries.

Example for Virgins

Rita's parents gave her a pious home training. At an early age she felt drawn to God, and the parish church was the favorite place of her devotions. There she spent hours in **meditation.** She cared not for the pastimes and sports of youth, and was especially **free from vanity** and love of fine clothes. Rita's **obedience** to her parents was remarkable. According to their wishes she regulated all her actions. At a tender age Rita began to perform bodily **penances,** particularly fasting. What she deprived herself of she **gave to the poor** for whom she always showed most loving compas-

sion. When only ten years old, this holy child already felt drawn to **retirement** and to lead a cloistered life, but love for her aged parents prevented her from making known her desires.

With her parents' permission Rita fitted up a little room for an oratory. This she decorated with pictures of our Lord's Passion, and shut herself in to pray and meditate. In this solitude her **love for Jesus Crucified** and her compassion for His bitter sufferings daily became more ardent. For about a year Rita enjoyed this retirement; then the duty of assisting her parents forced her from her loved solitude.

A community of Augustinian nuns dwelt at Cascia, and the pious desire of soon entering among them to offer to God the holocaust of her virginity was daily growing stronger in Rita's mind. She longed to go without delay. Her parents, however, pious though they were, manifested deep grief at thought of this separation. Their tearful plead-

ings and weight of parental authority prevailed, and were so successful in conquering Rita's objections, that they forced her to marry. To the hour of her marriage, Rita had been a model of **virginal purity, filial love, reverence and obedience.** She had now to follow another path, to become a bright example of virtue to all who live in the married state.

Model for Mothers

The young man selected for Rita's husband was passionate and quick-tempered, one well suited to try the patience and virtue of a saint. Scarcely a few days had passed after the marriage, when Rita's unworthy husband began to ill-treat her. Only her **love for the Crucified One** enabled her to bear this heavy cross. Sweetness of temper was the weapon she always used to combat her husband's cruelty. After having borne his ill-treatment for

years, her virtue and long-suffering at length won her husband's heart, and brought unity and love into their home.

Two sons were born to them. Gradually, Rita, to her great anxiety, perceived that they had inherited their father's quarrelsome disposition. With extreme care and watchfulness she sought to impress on their hearts lessons of the **fear of God, piety and devotion.** She spared neither vigilance, words nor chastisements to curb the self-willed dispositions of her children. Upon herself she imposed penances and fastings for their welfare, and was unwearying in acts of charity toward her neighbor. In her intercourse with others, she was always agreeable and polite. When gossipers, through affected pity, compassionated her for her husband's ill-treatment, which was well known, Rita **excused his faults** and changed the subject, — an example well worthy of imitation!

Pattern for Widows

After eighteen years of married life, Rita's husband was barbarously murdered a short distance from her home. Grief filled Rita's tender heart, particularly on account of the uncertainty of his soul's readiness to meet his Judge. But soon her trust in Divine Providence triumphed. She bowed and adored the just judgments of the Almighty, knowing that her consort had been taken at the time best fitted for God's designs. Not for a moment did her heroic heart hesitate to **pardon sincerely the murderers** of her unfortunate husband. Fervently she besought for them forgiveness from Divine Mercy.

Now a new sorrow came upon the young widow. **To her consternation** Rita perceived that her two sons, though young in years, were **plotting vengeance** against those who were guilty of their father's blood. The afflicted widow exerted all her force of word and deed to excite in them sen-

timents of resignation and Christian forgiveness. But in spite of all her advice and solicitude, the sorrowing mother could not touch her children's vengeful hearts. In her grief, Rita turned her weeping eyes to heaven, and though she was a mother, and had a mother's affectionate heart, yet because she sought God's honor more than her own flesh and blood, she supplicated our Savior, like a true heroine, either to **change her children's hearts or to take them from this world** before they could accomplish the vengeance they were meditating.

Rita's prayer was answered. Within one year her two sons died, and Rita, though touched by natural sorrow, nevertheless thanked God who had taken them away from the dangers of sin and the risk of a dreadful death — that of the soul.

Rita's life as a widow was short. During that time she spent herself in works of charity for her neighbor, in

penances and fasting. She lived in retirement and wore coarse mourning garments. Her former burning desire to enter the cloister now grew more vehement. She sought admission among the Augustinian nuns at Cascia, but was several times repulsed. It was not their custom to receive widows.

Miraculous Entry into the Convent

One night, St. John the Baptist, to whom Rita had been devoted from childhood, St. Augustine, and St. Nicholas of Tolentino, appeared to Rita. They conducted her to the convent of Cascia. Bolted gates and doors opened at their touch, and **they left Rita in the chapel of the Augustinian nuns.** What was the surprise of the religious on finding the oft-repulsed widow within their enclosure next morning. Her miraculous entry was too evident to doubt God's designs in her regard. Unanimously she was **accepted.**

The Perfect Religious

In her religious life, Rita excelled in the perfect observance of her Rule and the holy vows, in charity for God and her sisters, in profound humility and sacrificial labor. **Love for our suffering Savior** urged Rita to perform heroic penances. She possessed the spirit of prayer and contemplation in a high degree. In her cell she devised a little mountain with a Cross to remind her of our Savior's torments in His Passion. With tearful compassion she followed our Lord to Calvary and death.

Miraculous Wound

In 1443, Rita having attained her sixty-second year, God placed His seal upon her merits by a singular privilege. The holy nun once heard a sermon on the sufferings of our Savior. Divine compassion filled her heart, and afterward she sought her cell to pour forth

copious tears before her Crucifix. She besought her Beloved, crowned with thorns, to let her share His torture, and behold, **one of the thorns of the Crucifix detached itself and penetrated the left side of Rita's forehead.** She swooned from pain. This wound festered and emitted a disagreeable odor which made it necessary for Rita to live apart from the community. It was a humiliating privilege, but she bore it with joy until her death and was happy in her solitude.

A proof of the heavenly origin of this wound is that when Rita wished to go to Rome to gain the jubilee indulgence, the wound healed almost instantaneously, and after her return, again reopened. During the last five years of her life, our saint was bedridden most of the time. Once an acquaintance asked if she wished anything. "Yes," Rita answered, "go to the garden of my house as soon as you reach Rocca Porena; **pluck a rose** there and

bring it to me." It was in the month of January during the **rigors of winter.** Amazed, the woman went, and to her utter astonishment found a full blown red rose amidst the frozen bushes. She hastened to bring it to Rita who joyfully took it as coming from the hands of her Divine Spouse.

Another time, Rita bade a woman fetch her two figs from the same garden. There, on a leafless tree, were found **two ripe figs.** The woman plucked them with awe and pleasure and carried them to the sick nun. The religious and the people of the vicinity on hearing of this second wonder, praised God, and conceived a great veneration for the dying saint.

Three days before Rita's death our Lord, accompanied by the Blessed Virgin, appeared to her and promised her the joys of heaven. Rita died May 22, 1457, aged seventy-six years, forty-four of which had been spent in religion.

Miracles after Death

Crowds hastened to venerate Rita's body before its burial. The noxious wound in the forehead now shone like a brilliant jewel and emitted a heavenly fragrance. A near relative of Rita confidently embraced the holy body when lo! she **recovered the use of one of her arms** which had been paralyzed for many years. Many other astounding miracles were wrought before the sacred remains were placed in the tomb: a blind person recovered sight, and a child deaf and dumb from birth received speech and hearing. The first words he uttered were, **Ave Maria!** Surely a proof of the saint's intercession in heaven.

Rita was solemnly beatified July 16, 1628. In late years, devotion to St. Rita has increased, and she has **won for herself the title: "Saint of the Impossible."** In 1896 St. Rita appeared to Francischina Gabriella of Noci, **a**

lady who was at the point of death. "Fear not; you will recover," spoke the saint. The disease vanished as if by magic. Many instances are related of how our saint obtained aid in the **last extremities.** Conversion of hardened sinners and of those who had led dissolute lives, are no less numerous than her assistance granted in bodily ills.

Canonization of St. Rita

The universal and uninterrupted devotion of the faithful to St. Rita, and the many wonderful prodigies that God wrought through her intercession, enkindled in the loving hearts of thousands and thousands of the clients of the humble Augustinian nun, the ardent desire of seeing her elevated to the honors of the altar. The Decree of canonization was published May 24, 1900, by Pope Leo XIII; her feast is celebrated on the 22d of May each year by the universal Church.

In conclusion we quote these memorable words from the Decree: "Saint Rita, of Cascia, as maiden, wife, mother and nun was so pleasing and so beloved by Jesus Christ, that He deigned to signalize her not **only with the seal of His love, but especially with the seal of His Passion.** St. Rita merited this great privilege on account of her singular humility, her complete detachment and her admirable penance. However, the virtues which made St. Rita particularly pleasing to God were her love for her neighbor and her devotion to Jesus Crucified."

Let us take refuge to St. Rita. She bore the temptations of youth, the trials of the married state, the sorrows of widowhood, and she has given an example of a perfect life in religion.

St. Rita,
Advocate of the Impossible,
Intercede for us!

Devotions in Honor of St. Rita

Prayer to St. Rita

One or several of the following may be used as a novena.

O holy protectress of those who are in utmost need, who shinest as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, in patience and fortitude as the Patriarch Job, scourge of devils, health of the sick, deliverer of those in extreme need, admiration of saints and model of all states: with my whole heart and soul prostrate before thee and firmly united to the adorable will of my God, through the merits of my only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and in particular through the merits of His patient wearing of that torturous crown of thorns, which thou with a tender devotion didst daily contemplate; through the merits of the most sweet Virgin Mary and thine own most excellent graces and virtues, I implore thee to obtain my earnest petition — provided it be for the greater glory of God and my salvation (here make your request). Here-

in do thou guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and most dear advocate, that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and grace to persevere daily, as thou didst, in walking with courage and generosity and unwavering fidelity upon the heavenward path on which the love of my sweet Lord desires to lead me. Amen.

Invocations to St. Rita

St. Rita, Advocate of the Hopeless, pray for us.

St. Rita, Advocate of the Impossible, pray for us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, etc., three times.

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercy and God of all consolation, who, through the intercession of St. Rita, comforts us in all our tribulations. Amen.

Prayer

Holy patroness of those in need, St. Rita, so humble, pure and patient, whose pleadings with thy Divine Spouse are irresistible, obtain for us from thy Crucified Jesus our request. (Mention it.) Be propitious toward us for the greater glory of

God, and we promise to honor thee and to sing thy praises forever. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, etc., three times.

Hymn of St. Rita of Cascia

This hymn is a translation of the hymn of Lauds, office of St. Rita approved by Decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, Nov. 24, 1900.

1

From fast her sinless frame is weak,
Her livid flesh the scourges streak;
In pity for her Savior's woes,
Her days and even nights are closed.

Chorus

To be said after each stanza

Come, virgins chaste, pure brides draw near,
Let each exult and heaven hear
The hymn which grateful accents raise,
Our song of joy in Rita's praise.

2

The thorn-wound on her brow is shown,
The crimson rose in winter blown.
And full-ripe figs on frozen tree,
At Rita's wish the wonderers see.

3

The widowed spouse and wedded wife,
The way to heaven see in her life,
The way secure our Rita trod,
In life's dim day, through pain to God.

4

Praise to the Father and the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, Three in One.
Oh, grant us grace in heaven to reign
Through Rita's prayer and life-long pain.

V. Thou hast signed Thy servant Rita,
R. With the signs of Thy love and Passion.

LET US PRAY

O God, who didst deign to confer on St. Rita for imitating Thee in love of her enemies, the favor of bearing in her heart and brow, the marks of Thy love and Passion, grant, we beseech Thee, that through her intercession and merits, we, pierced by the thorns of compunction, may ever contemplate the sufferings of Thy Passion; who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

Are you full of peace? PRAY! Prayer will preserve it to you. Are you discouraged? PRAY! Prayer will sustain and comfort you.

Litany

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ hear us,
Christ graciously hear us.
God the Father Almighty,*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
who hast said: "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you,"
God the Holy Ghost, Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel and knowledge,
Holy Trinity one God, infinite in power,
Holy Mary, who dost never refuse a petition,†
Immaculate Virgin, Queen of heaven and earth,
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart,
Holy angels, spirits of humility,
Holy principalities, protectors of religious communities,
Holy virtues, angels of fortitude,
Holy cherubim, angels of light,
St. Rita, advocate of the impossible,
St. Rita, consecrated to God,
St. Rita, lover of Jesus Crucified,

---

*Have mercy on us.
†Pray for us.

St. Rita, bride of the suffering Savior,*
St. Rita, filled with compassion for the sufferings of Christ,
St. Rita, crowned by an angel with a crown of thorns,
St. Rita, who didst bear the wound of this mysterious crown on thy forehead,
St. Rita, who didst firmly trust in the loving mercy of Jesus,
St. Rita, who didst importune the dying Savior with ardent supplications,
St. Rita, who didst never doubt a gracious answer to thy prayer,
That we may renounce all self-love,†
That we may confidently trust in the promises of Jesus,
That the enemies of our salvation may be put to confusion,
That we may ever perfectly fulfil the will of God,
That our inclinations to evil may be destroyed,
That the Faith in all its purity may be spread over our land,
That a holy zeal may fill our hearts,
That we may infuse a holy love for chastity into all who come in contact with us,
That in all our actions and omissions we

*Pray for us.
†Pray for us, St. Rita.

may endeavor to promote a tender charity,*

That we may be delivered from all avarice, vainglory and rash judgment,

That great saints may rise in our land who will edify the people and dispel the darkness of unbelief,

That we may be delivered from all interior enemies,

Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

V. Pray for us, St. Rita,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

O God, who in Thy infinite tenderness dost deign to hearken to the prayer of St. Rita, and to grant her what to human understanding seems impossible to human foresight, skill and efforts, in reward for her compassionate love and firm reliance

*Pray for us, St. Rita.

upon Thy promises; have pity upon our adversity and succor us in our calamities, that the unbeliever may know that Thou art the recompense of the humble, the defense of the helpless and the strength of those who trust in Thee. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Indulgenced Prayer

O glorious St. Rita, who didst miraculously participate in the sorrowful Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, obtain for me the grace to suffer with resignation the troubles of this life, and protect me in all my needs. Amen.

Indulgence of 300 days once a day to all who devoutly recite this prayer in honor of St. Rita of Cascia. — Decree Aug. 11, 1906.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father, etc., three times.

All that is contained in this booklet we submit unreservedly to the judgment of the Holy Catholic Church and its infallible Head.

St. Jude Thaddeus, the Great Helper in Great Need and St. Rita, Advocate of the Impossible. Price 5 cts. per copy; postage extra; reduction for quantities of 100 or more.

Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri

CONTENTS

Page

St. Jude Thaddeus

History According to Tradition 3
Cure of the King of Edessa 6
Conversion of Barbarians 9
Apostolic Labors in Persia 10
St. Jude's Epistle 15
Martyrdom 17
Powerful Helper in Extreme Need 19
How to Obtain the Aid of St. Jude 22
Advice in Grave Difficulties 23

Devotions in Honor of St. Jude Thaddeus

Mass in Honor of St. Jude 25
Novenas 29
Litany 30
Prayer in Trials 34
Prayer in Grievous Affliction 35
Praise and Thanksgiving 37

A Source of Consolation 38

St. Rita

Her Birth 41
Example for Virgins 42
Model for Mothers 44
Pattern for Widows 46
Miraculous Entry into the Convent 48
The Perfect Religious 49
Miraculous Wound 49
Miracles after Death 52
Canonization of St. Rita 53

Devotions in Honor of St. Rita

Prayer to St. Rita 55
Invocations to St. Rita 56
Hymn to St. Rita of Cascia 57
Litany 59
Indulgenced Prayer 62

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The world needs Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The solution of all our anxieties, the drying of all our tears, the answer to all our problems, are found with Jesus in the Sacrament of Love.

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aims to spread and deepen devotion to this Mystery of Love; by simple, practical articles it endeavors to draw hearts nearer to Jesu Hostia, to make the practice of virtue attractive. Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and compassion for the poor souls also receive much encouragement. (See outside back cover.)

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An artistic medal of St. Jude may be had for one new subscription: the figure of the saint on a seashell shaped background; beneath, the anchor of hope; above, the Cross of Faith. Inscribed thereon are the words: "St. Jude Thaddeus, pray for us."

Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri

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